

3-23-1846

Letter from Leonidas Lent Hamline to James B. Finley

L.L. Hamline

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Rev. James B. Finley;
Eaton, Prebble Co.
O.
MAR 24 1846
If Mr. Finley has left Eaton, will his family forward to him this letter.

Richard Handman
Letter may be
afforded to
Chair of the
Penitentiary

Kenia March 23. 1846

Rev J. B. Finley; dear Bro.;

Although in the midst of so glorious a work as your letter records, on the G. Dist. I regret the necessity of your retiring from that field, yet in view of your long term of labor in the church, of the impaired state of your health, and of the distance of the Dist. from your family, I hereby release you from the Tanesville District. And as I believe your services at Columbus will be not only acceptable to those whose suffrages elected you, but that under God your labors will prove a blessing to many forlorn souls for whom Christ died, you are hereby appointed "Moral Instructor" in the Ohio Penitentiary. I pray God to give you improved health, and prepare you, (if his providence should recal you to the ordinary work) for extensive and useful labors for some years to come.

I thank you my dear bro. for your suggestions in regard to the Dist. I have written to bro. Young believing that, as you hint, he would form the best supply, if his health will at all subserve the work for five months. I must confess some fears on the subject, because his health generally declines in the heat of Summer. But he is a man of so much discretion, that I can safely leave it to him, to judge how many D. Meetings he can probably attend, and what labor perform at each. As he is superannuated, we have no claim on him

and his services, if he render them, must be voluntary. Yet I doubt not he will gladly do what he can.

Should bro Young's health or judgment induce him to decline, it would probably be two or three weeks, before I could fill ~~your~~ place. I must have time to look around, & find a man who will be likely to answer for the District next year, as he would expect, if efficient, to be continued. I would be glad if you could write to some bro. on the Dist. to attend the Granville I. M. Perhaps, if my health will allow, I can reach the New York Q. Meeting, though at present I am quite ill, having been confined three weeks with cough and bilious complaint. If you can make arrangements for any of the Q. Me^s for ~~three~~^{two} weeks to come please do so.

I cannot of course, direct in regard to the transfer of your plan of the District, but I wish if convenient, you would direct me another letter to this place, immediately, & let me know where I may address you until the middle or 20th of April.

May the Lord, who has blessed you hitherto, be with you always, to the end.

Affectionately, L. L. Hamline

P.S. Mr. H. joins me in ch. love to you & sist. Finley.